

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00051 021838Z

47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 SAJ-01 SCCT-01 /080 W

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R 021810Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5847

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, UR, XF

SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS ON POSTPONEMENT OF BREZHNEV'S ME TRIP

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

1. SOVIET PRESS OVER THE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY HAS MADE EVERY EFFORT TO COUNTER THE OPINION THAT THE POSTPONEMENT OF BREZHNEV'S ME TOUR SIGNIFIES IMPORTANT POLITICAL STRAINS IN SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. A CHORUS OF ARTICLES, MOSTLY REPLAYING EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL STATEMENTS AND PRESS COMMENT, CARRY THE MESSAGE THAT THE FAHMY VISIT MADE A CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION TO

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 00051 021838Z

STRENGTHENING SOVIET-EGYPTIAN FRIENDSHIP AND THAT EGYPTIANS WERE

SATISFIED WITH THEIR TALKS IN MOSCOW. PRESS, NONETHELESS, EXPECTEDLY CONTINUES TO AVOID GIVING ANY REASON FOR THE VISIT'S POSTPONEMENT, THEREBY KEEPING THE RUMOR MILL HERE BUZZING WITH SPECULATION ABOUT THE REASONS FOR THE SOVIET DECISION NOT TO GO.

2. PRAVDA (JANUARY 1) ACCOMPANIED THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF FAHMY'S DEPARTURE WITH THE TEXT OF A TASS INTERVIEW IN WHICH THE EGYPTIAN CHARACTERIZED HIS TALKS WITH SOVIET LEADERS AS FRUITFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE. ACCORDING TO TASS, FAHMY EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE TALKS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS AND THAT EGYPT IS CONVINCED THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP HAS A STRONG DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. FAHMY IS ALSO QUOTED AS EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE IN THE SOVIETS' "FULL SUPPORT" FOR THE ARAB STRUGGLE TO REGAIN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND TO GUARANTEE THE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE ARAB PALESTINIANS. TASS STORY (PRAVDA JANUARY 2) BASED ON EGYPTIAN PRESS REPORTS, STATES THAT FAHMY'S BRIEFING FOR SADAT ALSO STRESSED THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S CONVICTION THAT SOVIET LEADERS HAVE A STRONG DESIRE TO IMPROVE SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS.

3. SOVIET PRESS REPLAYS OF EGYPTIAN PRESS COMMENT CONTRIBUTE TO FLESHING OUT FAHMY'S REPORTED VIEWS. PRAVDA (JANUARY 1) CITES AL AHAM AS SAYING THE DESIRE OF THE USSR AND THE ARAB STATES FOR FRIENDSHIP IS SUFFICIENT TO COUNTER EFFORTS TO DIVIDE THEM. AL AKHBAR IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE SCHEMES OF OPPONENTS WILL IN NO WAY BE ALLOWED TO UNDERMINE SOVIET-ARAB COOPERATION. TASS ACCOUNT OF JANUARY 1 AL AKHBAR STORY PRAVDA, JANUARY 2) QUOTES PAPER AS SAYING THE POSTPONEMENT OF BREZHNEV'S VISIT WAS "ADOPTED WITH THE AGREEMENT OF ALL FOUR INTERESTED SIDES" AND THAT EGYPT WAS "VERY SATISFIED" WITH THE WAY IN WHICH CAIRO WAS INFORMED OF THE DECISION. PRAVDA ALSO REPLAYS JANUARY 1 AL AHAM STORY ASSERTING THAT THE TALKS WERE CONDUCTED "WITH MAXIMUM FRANKNESS" POSSIBLE ONLY BETWEEN TRUE FRIENDS AND THAT CONTINUATION OF THE DIALOGUE IS A GUARANTEE THAT SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS WILL BE STRENGTHENED. STOESEL

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**TAGS:** PFOR, EG, UR, XF, (BREZHNEV, LEONID I)  
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